[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Skelton & Brotton U.D.C.

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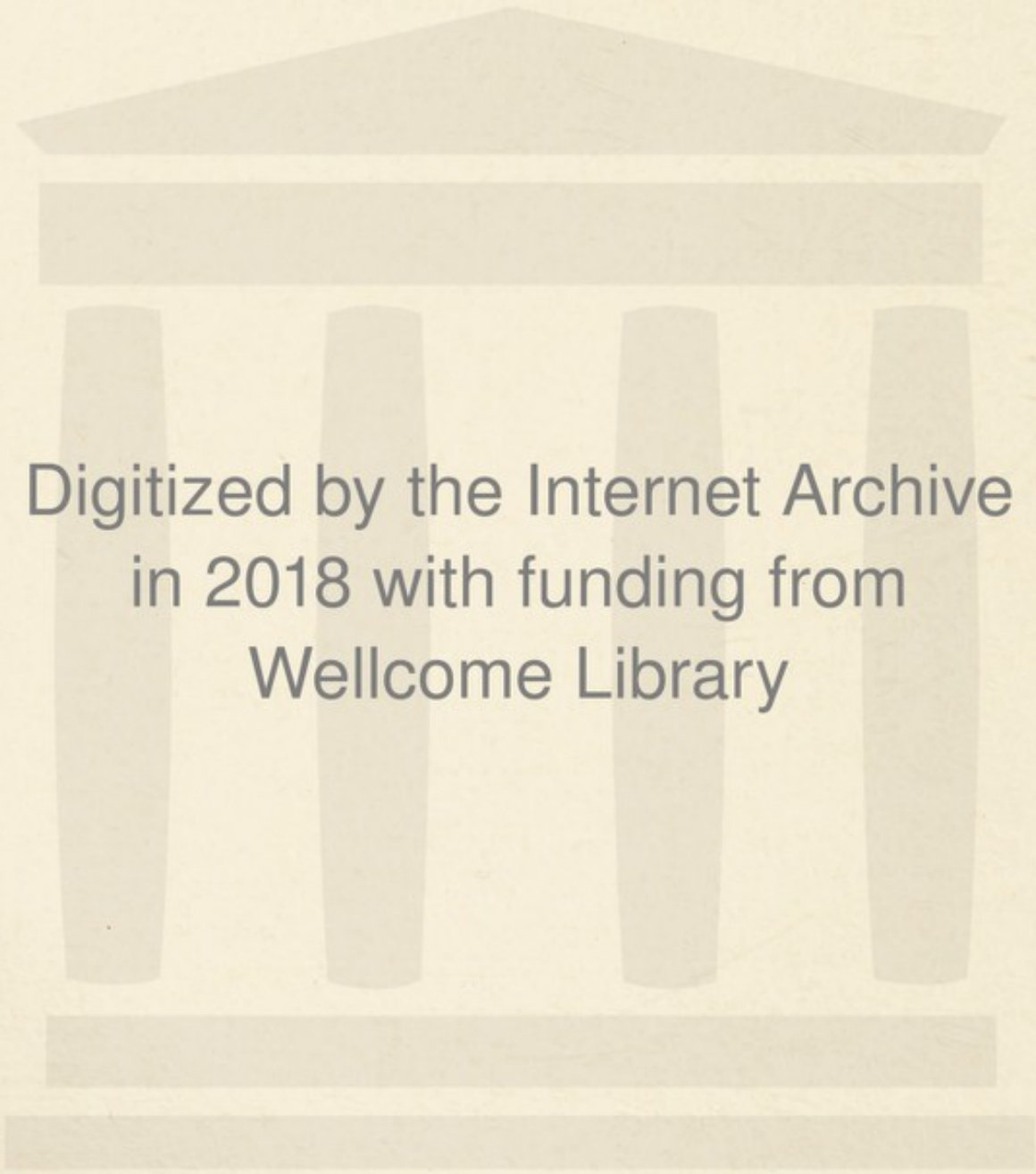
SKELTON & BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

for the Year 1949

of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A., D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW, SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.(RET)
and of the Sanitary Inspector
J. J. PATTISON, M.R. SAN. I., M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

SKELTON & BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949, the contents and arrangement of which are in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2/50.

The two primary purposes of the Annual Report are to provide the Ministry of Health with certain information required by the Minister and to give the Local Authority a review of the work done in the year. The information supplied is in the form of statistics interspersed with comments and at times recommendations. Unless a person happens to be statistically minded statistics are at best a dull subject and the general reader is apt to skim the contents. A third purpose of the Annual Health Report should be to present the health activities of the Local Authority in such a way that the public becomes interested in the prevention of disease and the maintenance of personal health. Medical science has progressed to the stage where it can offer to the public valuable advice on certain matters of personal health. For instance, the early treatment of cancer of the breast and of the womb is now most successful, so a woman should know why and when to consult her doctor ; immunization against diphtheria reduces the likelihood of catching diphtheria and practically abolishes the risk of dying of it ; the vitamin preparations are necessary additions to the food of infants and toddlers so that they may grow up healthy children. I quote these three proved procedures as examples of what medical science can tell the public with full assurance.

I now come to the question of how to put the information across to the public, a matter beset with difficulties. Exhortations whether by means of the written word, as in leaflets and posters and films, or by means of the spoken word, as in lectures, are, I am convinced, of little use as isolated events except to deal with an emergency such as an outbreak of infectious disease where the emotion of fear in the individual gives rise to a state in which interest develops. In fact, interest in a subject does not arise spontaneously just because the organiser, or the speaker, or the writer happens to be interested himself and so thinks other people should be interested ; nor does interest arise because a logical

approach is made to people, notwithstanding that we all think it does, as is shown by the fact that we invariably take infinite pains to present a subject in a logical form. Actually an individual becomes interested in a subject only if he believes that he will thereby gain something which at the time he considers of benefit to himself. For instance, the man with a severe bellyache becomes interested in his health because he wants to be rid of his ache ; the same man free from aches or pains or uncomfortable symptoms usually feels that he is not going to get any particular benefit by concerning himself about the state of his health with which he sees no reason to be dissatisfied.

I have dealt briefly and inadequately with the matter of interest ; there are two other means by which a knowledge of health may be imparted—by impressing and by persuading others. Certainly by impressing his listeners with his supposed knowledge, power, beneficence or other attribute the speaker will influence them ; the effects created by impression, however, soon diminish ; the greater the impression made the greater the subsequent feeling of flop that develops. The methods of the various Fifth Columns in recent years are examples of how persuasion can be used with effect in convincing others.

Now the personal approach and the group approach, particularly the group discussion, are the most effective means of educating the public in personal health, because they provide the opportunity of employing all the three available methods of health education. The personal approach can be used by the health visitor and the sanitary inspector in the home. I consider the health visitor and the sanitary inspector to be key-workers in health education for they are in daily contact in the homes of the people with the people. The personal approach can also be used by the doctor and health visitor in such group assemblies as Infant Welfare Centres and school medical inspections. At the Infant Welfare Centres the group approach is a potent means of education, provided the correct psychological environment has been created. The newly attending mother perceives that there is a group in the Centre—a group that insists on the performance of certain health rituals ; she becomes desirous of being accepted within the group, so she conforms to the patterns of health behaviour laid down. An organized extension of the group approach is the group discussion, where a small group up to a dozen in number meets for half an hour or so and discusses some subject of health importance under the unobtrusive guidance of the educator. The group discussion is a most valuable method but needs time, and needless to say, considerable experience and skill on the part of him or her who guides such discussion.

Certain requisites are necessary in anyone who would effectively practise either the personal or the group approach. Firstly he or she must have strongly developed the preventive outlook on health. That attitude is particularly necessary to-day because recent developments in the health services have given the appearance of suggesting with powerful affect that the treatment of established diseases rather than their prevention is the primary aim of medical science. Secondly some knowledge of educational psychology and of simple modern educational methods are necessary.

I can visualise such an important procedure as the group discussion being profitably carried out in other places than Infant Welfare Centres, for instance, among such groups as food handlers, steelworkers, miners, etc. I do not decry the lecture or the leaflet when once interest has arisen. Further instruction by lectures, leaflets, periodicals, or books is most useful but interest must first arise among the persons to be taught.

I have written at some length on health education because I feel that health education not restricted to exhortations by means of leafllets, posters or the occasional lecture, but organised on wider lines, is one of the most important weapons in the armoury of preventive medicine.

The death-rate continues to give warning that the population is an ageing one ; the number of over-sixties is increasing and is forming an ever greater proportion of the nation. The present tendency is to relegate these persons to retirement where they rust useless alike to themselves and to the country ; there, when all is said and done, they have to be maintained by the efforts of the other relatively diminishing age groups. This may have been reasonable in the nineteenth century when few of the over-sixties could expect to survive more than a few years so that the over-sixties were numerically unimportant. To-day the span of life has been prolonged with corresponding delay in the onset of senescence. Is it still the right policy that retirement should be expected at the age of sixty-five ? A certain proportion of the over sixty-fives will be found medically unfit for further employment ; some will not desire it. But, a goodly proportion are both fit and willing to prolong their working life, perhaps in some cases at a diminished tempo. Is it not worthwhile that such persons continue to be usefully employed ?

I wish to stress that tuberculosis is an infectious disease ; at the present time it is the most crippling and killing of all the infections in Britain. While the total elimination of the human type of infection is probably unattainable under present conditions, a great reduction in its incidence is practicable. The treatment of tuberculosis under the Health Service is handled by the Regional Hospital Board ; the social measures have devolved on the Local Health Authority ; the Local Sanitary Authority remains responsible for general hygiene, housing, the abatement of overcrowding and the epidemiological aspects of its control. Of all the conditions that are to a certain extent remediable to-day the abatement of overcrowding and, where necessary, the rehousing of the infectious tuberculous person are of an importance second to none. Of equal importance is the early diagnosis of the disease and here mass radiography plays a vital role. The Mass Radiography Unit was located at Guisborough and Carlin How during the month of May so that its services were readily accessible to the inhabitants of the District. Another essential activity is intensive preventive work in the patients' homes, since the education of the public in the ways and means of preventing tuberculosis is another vital factor. The public must realize that tuberculosis is preventable. To provide conditions in which interest in its prevention arises is the duty of the health educator, the means of prevention are there if the public will use them. The public must understand that although tuberculosis is infectious the tuberculous person need not spread the disease

if he take proper care. I do not want by an emotional appeal to arouse a transient enthusiasm, but I feel that the spirit of confidence in and enthusiasm for the prevention of tuberculosis which existed among us in the earlier decades of the century could be usefully reawakened. Have we in this matter a feeling of frustration, of laissez-faire ?

I now turn to water supplies. Two dry years in succession were followed by a serious shortage of water particularly in the higher parts of the District during the late summer and autumn. The supplies of the Cleveland Water Company were materially reduced so that in some places people made use of polluted springs or other dubious sources of supply. It is true that I posted notices at some of the polluted sources known to be used advising boiling and similar notices were inserted in the Press by the Cleveland Water Company regarding their own supply. Nevertheless, I viewed the position with much concern for the scene was set for outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Adequate water supplies are vital for any real improvement of general hygiene in the District. Without more water it is impracticable to carry out major conversion schemes ; without more water it is impracticable to get rid of standpipes ; without more water it is impossible to supply a number of farms with adequate water for the production of clean milk. The remedy is the commencing and the completing of the Scaling Reservoir with the necessary mains at the earliest possible time.

It is in connection with housing that preventive medicine encounters the most delays, disappointments and attempts at the improvising of palliative measures when only the rigorous and prompt enforcement of a proper standard of housing will suffice, notwithstanding that the law is set forth in the relevant Acts of Parliament with no undue ambiguity ; moreover, the owners, one would think, for their own sakes would keep their properties in repair, for unremedied disrepair leads to further disrepair ; indeed, in connection with housing the saying " a stitch in time saves nine " is most applicable. In fact the observations of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Pattison, on page 20 are illuminating ; so much property in your District has got into so bad a state of disrepair that the resources of the builders appear inadequate for the execution of the necessary works within a reasonable time.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their warm encouragement throughout the year ; Mr. F. Wilkinson, the Clerk of the Council, for his continued ready co-operation ; and Mr. J. Pattison, the Sanitary Inspector, whose report follows mine, for his willing help on all occasions. As you are aware my administrative work is done from the Guisborough Area Health Office of the North Riding County Council ; it would be ungrateful not to mention the two clerical officers, Miss M. Imeson and Miss J. Waite, for their loyal assistance without which my labours would indeed have been heavy.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTTON,

12th April, 1950.

TABLE 1
Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health also District Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. J. A. Thompson*	Mr. R. Barry (retired 9/6/49)	Mr. E. Hollis*
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward	Mr. J. Pattison appointed Sanitary Inspector 9/6/49)	

*Also Surveyor of the District concerned

SECTION I

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1949 is 12,880, as compared to an estimate of the population in the mid-year 1948 of 12,770.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures :—

1.	Area of the District in acres	15,309
2.	No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books	3,894
3.	Rateable Value	£47,272
4.	Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£185

Social Conditions

The District consists of an industrial belt comprising Skelton, New Skelton, North Skelton, Brotton and parts of Carlin How with a " Y " shaped prolongation to the southwards composed of Skelton Green, Boosbeck, Margrove Park, Charltons and Lingdale. These are situated amidst agricultural lands studded with farms ascending with swelling slopes to the moors which attain a height of nearly 1,000 feet. On the border of these, beyond the wooded valley of the Hagg Beck, is the community of Moorsholm. To the north the District is bounded by Huntcliff attaining a height of 300 feet above the sea in almost sheer descent.

Ironstone mining remains the general, but a decreasing, industry in the District itself. The ironstone mines are in number five, or six if Longacre be considered a separate mine. Factories for the light industries are coming into operation ; apart, however, from keyworkers they employ at present mostly female labour. The Skinningrove Iron and Steelworks situated just outside the District employ from 600 to 700 of those resident in the District. During 1949 the industries have maintained full employment, a factor of great importance to the health both physical and mental of the population.

TABLE 2

Vital Statistics

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	....	129	128	257
Legitimate	....	126	119	245
Illegitimate	....	3	9	12
Still Births	....	6	2	8
Legitimate	....	6	1	7
Illegitimate	....	—	1	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

		Male	Female
Total	....	8	7
Legitimate	....	8	6
Illegitimate	....	—	1

The number of births registered being 257 gives a birth-rate of 20.0 per 1,000 of the population, compared to 16.7 of England and Wales. Fifteen infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 58 per thousand births compared to the rate for England and Wales of 32.

TABLE 3

Analysis of Infantile Mortality

Cause of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total deaths under 1 year
Convulsions										
Acute Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles										
Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Bronchitis Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Asphyxia neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Disease of pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pyloricstenosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	4	1	5	15

TABLE 4
Vital Statistics
CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys.	—	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Measles	1	—
Ac. Poliomyl. & Enceph.	—	—
Ac. inf. Enceph.	—	—
Cancer of mouth & gullet (M)	1	—
uterus (F)	—	3
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	2
Cancer of Breast	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	10	5
Diabetes	—	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	6
Heart Diseases	34	27
Other Diseases of Circ. System	3	3
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia	3	2
Other Resp. Dis.	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	3
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	3	4
Nephritis	7	11
Puerp. and Post. Abort. Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Premature Births	1	1
Congen. Malform., Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	5	2
Suicide	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—
Other Violent Causes	2	—
All Other Causes	6	7
ALL CAUSES	93	86

The deaths of residents were 179 giving a death rate of 15 per 1,000 of the population as compared with one of 11.7 for England and Wales. The infantile mortality rate of 58 calls for comment ; it is the second occasion since I assumed office in 1947 on which this rate has been excessive.

TABLE 5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1949
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Paralysis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	260	10	31	36	33	32	113	4	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	1	1	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 5 shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases except tuberculosis.

Diphtheria

No case was notified. Immunization was available to children either at the hands of the family doctor, or at the School Clinic of the North Riding of Yorkshire Education Authority at Carlin How, or at the Infant Welfare Centres of the Local Health Authority at Brotton, Skelton and Lingdale, while I was able to arrange sessions at the various schools where the family doctors gave reinforcing doses to children who had been immunized earlier in life.

TABLE 6
Immunization against Diphtheria

Age Groups	
0 to 4 years	123
5 to 14 years	26
Reinforcing doses	443

Smallpox

Thirteen immunizations were performed during the year all by the family doctors. This important preventive measure appears now almost disregarded. Recourse to it to any appreciable extent is made only when fear provides the necessary interest in the midst of a smallpox " scare."

Tuberculosis

Eight new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year and 5 of non-respiratory tuberculosis.

TABLE 7
Tuberculosis

Age Groups	Respiratory Form		Non-Respiratory Form	
Years	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	1	—	—	1
5 to 9	—	1	1	1
10 to 14	—	—	—	1
15 to 19	—	2	—	1
20 to 24	2	—	—	—
25 to 34	—	1	—	—
40 to 55	—	1	—	—

The Mass Radiography Unit 1C, of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Regional Hospital Board, spent three weeks in the area of the three Local Sanitary Authorities. I give details of the work done during the twelve days the Unit was stationed at the Club Hall, Carlin How, and the nine days at the Southside Methodist Church Schoolroom, Guisborough, in Table 8 overleaf.

TABLE 8

Mass Miniature Radiography Survey: Statistical Report

	Guisborough District	*Carlin How District*
Total radiographed	1060	1453
Total passed on miniature film	989	1383
Total recalled for large film	71	70
Total failed to attend for large film	2	3
Total passed on large film	29	40
Total diagnosed on large film	30	23
Total recalled for investigation	10	4
ANALYSIS OF NON-TUBERCULOUS CASES		
Silicosis	10	—
Bronchiectasis	—	—
Thoracic neoplasm	—	—
Cardiovascular diseases—congenital	—	2
Cardiovascular diseases—acquired	1	2
Miscellaneous	14	9
TOTAL	25	11
ANALYSIS OF TUBERCULOUS CASES		
Category " A "—previously diagnosed	2	4
Category " B "—newly discovered	10	9
TOTAL	12	13
Category " C "—active disease	2	1
Category " D "—inactive disease	10	12
Cases still under observation	3	3
School leavers recalled for large film	4	6

According to these figures the number of cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis was 0.6 per thousand at Carlin How and 1.9 per thousand at Guisborough. At the end of the year no cases were still under observation.

SECTION III: Water Supplies

The water supplies of the District are from divers sources. Apart from the statutory water undertaking, the Cleveland Water Company, the parish of Moorsholm is supplied by the Local Authority from springs which gush forth from a heather covered bank some 700 feet above sea-level. It is of the highest degree of bacterial purity. Charltons is served by a private supply of Messrs. Dorman Long & Company. Analyses given in my Report for 1948 show a satisfactory water. A few houses in Slapewath are supplied by a pipe from the mains of the Guisborough Urban District Council and were without water for many weeks. New Brotton has a private supply which failed early in the year.

From the 3rd August the reservoir of the Cleveland Water Company at Lockwood Beck was for the purpose of supply empty. With the shrinking of the water in the reservoir the supply for some time previous had been in a relatively increasing amount derived from the Sleddale Beck, the intake being situated at Commondale. This beck water is bacteriologically of a different quality from the water derived directly off the moors—the normal supply of Lockwood Beck reservoir. Table 11 gives a comparison of the bacterial qualities of the two raw waters. In addition there were some technical difficulties in the treatment of the water because of the emptiness of the reservoir and other factors. After consultation with myself the Cleveland Water Company published notices in the Press advising the boiling of the water from their mains. At the end of the year these notices had not been withdrawn.

Of the miscellaneous waters in Tables 12 and 13 No. 1 was taken from a source used by persons owing to the failure of their normal supply; pollution is evident. No. 2 is bacteriologically a very pure water although containing excess of iron. No. 3 also shows a very pure water. It was taken at the request of a farmer who wished to use it for the supply of his farm.

There are 3,332 houses supplied from the public water mains directly into the houses and 360 by standpipes while the remaining 202 are supplied from private supplies, wells or springs.

TABLE 9

Bacteriological Results of the Treated Waters

Cleveland Water Co.

No.	Date 1949	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1	7th March	less than 10	absent	absent
2	26th July	900	present	present
3	30th July	0	absent	absent
4	3rd August	10	absent	absent
5	12th August	less than 10	absent	absent
6	1st September	10	absent	absent
7	8th September	less than 10	present	absent
8	15th September	less than 10	absent	absent
9	22nd September	10	absent	absent
10	29th September	20	absent	absent
11	21st October	less than 10	absent	absent
12	28th October	260	present	present
13	30th November	uncountable	absent	absent
14	19th December	60	present	present

TABLE 10

Sample 1 : Chemical Results in parts per million

Cleveland Water Co.

Sample 1 (7/2/49)

Appearance : opalescent with no visible deposit (Filtered)

Colour (Hazen) yellow-brown	17	Turbidity (silica scale)	12
Electric conductivity at 20° C.	165	Odour	Nil
Chlorine in chlorides	17	Free carbon dioxide	5
Hardness : total 65	Carbonate (temporary) 40	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	40
Nitrogen in nitrates	0.0	Non-carbonate (permanent) 25	
Free ammonia	0.092	Nitrogen in nitrites	less than 0.01
Albuminoid ammonia	0.042	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.01

Metals : Iron 0.26 Manganese 0.03 Other metals absent

TABLE 11

Bacteriological Results of the Raw Waters

Cleveland Water Co.

No.		No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. in 2 days	Probable number of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	B. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1	Lockwood Beck Reservoir	50	8	Present
2	Commondale Beck	610	90	Present

TABLE 12

Miscellaneous Waters

Bacteriological Results

Source	Date	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive coliform reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1. Pipe adjacent to road opposite entrance to Skelton Castle	5/8/49	50	present	present
2. Spout on hillside at Jolly Sailor's Licensed premises	7/3/49	0	absent	absent
3. Well at Freeberry Farm	13/6/49	40	absent	absent

TABLE 13

Chemical Results in parts per million

	7/3/49 2. Spout on hillside at Jolly Sailor's Licensed Premises	13/6/49 3. Well at Freeberry Farm
Turbidity (silica scale)	less than 5 increasing to 25	less than 5
Colour (Hazen)	Faint yellow-brown : 10	less than 10
Reaction pH	6.3	7.6
Total solids dried at 180° C.	135	290
Free carbon dioxide	57	7
Chlorine in chlorides	17	21
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	80	195
Hardness : total	85	230
temporary	80	195
Nitrogen in nitrates	0.0	0.0
Nitrogen in nitrites	absent	less than 0.01
Free ammonia	0.064	0.000
Albuminoid ammonia	0.000	0.016
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.00	0.25
Metals : iron	3.0	Nil
manganese	0.16	0.03
Other metals	absent	absent
Residual chlorine	Nil	Nil

SECTION IV

Inspection and Supervision of Food

On the 21st November I presented my Report on " Clean Food " to the Public Health Committee. On the 1st December it was resolved to adopt Byelaws based on the model issued to Local Authorities by the Ministry of Food regarding handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. My report on this subject will be found in Appendix A.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported to me during the year.

Other information and the relevant statistical tables will be found on pages 23 and 24.

SECTION V : Housing

On the 2nd June demolition orders were made regarding the dwellings known as Bell's Huts under Sub-section 4 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. At the time of writing this report one of the families occupying these houses had been rehoused in a Council house while a sub-tenant of the occupant of another house had been re-accommodated in a dwelling not in all respects fit for human habitation. Although there is no statutory obligation on the Local Authority to rehouse the occupants of individual houses regarding which demolition orders have been made under the above Sub-section, their rehousing is of some concern to the Local Authority, for while the houses remain occupied the demolition orders are to a large extent ineffective ; moreover, if an occupant becomes re-accommodated in an unsatisfactory house, then little improvement in housing has been achieved. The matter is a difficult one because persons in the lowest income group tend to gravitate to or remain in the type of house regarding which demolition orders are made ; their rehousing in houses requiring a larger rent presents economic problems.

Other information regarding housing and the relevant statistical tables will be found on pages 20—22 and 24—26.

SECTION VI

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

During the year a case of typhoid fever occurred in a camper who had camped for some days on a site a few yards outside the boundaries of the District. He is alleged to have drunk from a beck which arises in the District, flows through it and passes the site of the infected person's camp. The beck within the District at the time of my visits in the months of July and August showed evidence to my senses of sewage pollution. I understand that at the time the Local Authority's sewers adjacent at one point to the beck had been damaged. In conjunction with Dr. D. J. H. Payne, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton, I made investigation by means of sewage traps regarding the presence of pathogenic organisms with a view to discovering a carrier. With modern selective methods it is possible to isolate such organisms from stream water ; naturally the difficulties are great and the chances small unless one is dealing with a massive outbreak of disease. Although I spent a considerable time in this investigation Dr. Payne was not able to isolate any pathogenic organisms from the specimens I sent him.

Other information on the sanitary circumstances and the relevant statistical tables will be found on pages 16—26.

SKELTON & BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SKELTON-IN-CLEVELAND.

8th March, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Skelton & Brotton Urban District Council

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report to the Council, for the year 1949.

I express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their help and courtesy during the year and I am indebted to my colleagues, especially to Dr. Butcher, for the support and co-operation given to me at all times.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. J. PATTISON,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Generally

Having been in the area for only one year and four months, most of which time having been spent on housing repair work, and owing to the records in the office being scanty, I am not able to comment fully upon the sanitary circumstances of the district. From the observations I have been able to make, I find that there is much work to be done. Many houses need repair, a large number of privies are due for conversion to water closets, and water supplies need improving. A pleasing feature worth noting, however, is that I find a large majority of the people to be industrious, clean and house-proud.

Water Supply

It cannot be said that the water supplies to the district are satisfactory. During the dry, summer period of 1949, many houses in the area, particularly in Lingdale, Brotton, Boosbeck, Margrove Park and Skelton Green were without a regular supply from the Cleveland Water Company's mains for many weeks. The Company supplemented the supply to the Lockwood Beck Reservoir from another source but, as the result of regular sampling, it was found that the water was of doubtful bacteriological purity and the public had to be advised to boil all domestic water.

Most of the private supplies in the district, with the exception of the supply to Charltons, owned by Messrs. Dorman Long & Company Limited, were also affected by the summer drought and, in the case of the ten houses at New Brotton, the spring supplying the property failed completely and was not restored by the end of the year. The Council undertook the delivery of water in tanks to the tenants twice weekly.

Ninety houses are dependent upon individual wells or springs for water and 472 are supplied only by stand pipes. In 27 dwelling houses, however, water taps and sinks were provided in sculleries in place of stand pipes during the year. It is noted that a number of houses have a water supply in the form of a tap in a wash-house only.

Thus, with inadequate mains supplies, insufficient private supplies, the existence of stand pipes and the lack of taps in sculleries, there is an immense amount of work to be done before the water supply to every house can be said to be satisfactory. The position in regard to dwelling houses can be summarized as follows :—

TABLE 14

1.	Number supplied by stand pipes	472
2.	Number supplied by wells and springs	90
3.	Number having direct supply	3332
	TOTAL	3894

Sewerage and Drainage

With the exception of outlying houses and farms the district is served by public sewers discharging to the sea. A sewage disposal works owned by the Council receives the sewage from the village of Moorsholm.

Some lengths of sewer have been damaged by mining subsidence and need relaying, those receiving attention during the year being as follows :—

327 yards of 7 inch cast iron pipe and 360 yards of 9 inch glazed stoneware pipe were laid at Boosbeck to replace sewers damaged by subsidence ; 207 yards of 9 inch glazed stoneware pipe were laid at Brotton to form a relief sewer for the waste water from Lumpsey Mine, delivering to the New Hill Gill water course.

Again with the exception of the outlying properties, most houses in the area appear to have drains connected to the public sewers ; 36 additional connections were made to sewers, mainly in regard to privy conversions ; 204 visits were made for the purpose of testing 240 drains totalling 589 yards of 4 inch pipe. In addition, 85 gullies, 52 chambers and 5 intercepting traps were installed.

Closet Accommodation

The water carriage system is not universal in the urban area, more than half of the sanitary accommodation consisting of pan closets ; 106 of these closets were converted to water closets during the year, 72 of them being aided by grants from the Council of £7/10/- per conversion. Although the conversion of all privies in the district to proper water closets is desirable, or even essential, I cannot see that much progress can be made until the Cleveland Water Company is in a position to give an adequate supply of water to all parts of the area.

Five water closets were added to existing premises during the year and, including those associated with new houses, the number and description of sanitary conveniences at the end of the year was :—

TABLE 15

Water closets	1761
Pan closets	2137
Middens	12
TOTAL	3910

Refuse Collection and Disposal

For the first half of the year the collection and disposal of refuse followed the system which had been in operation for some years and which consisted of the collection of refuse by six men operating two Karrier " Bantam " vehicles and the collection of tins and paper by two men and a Bedford lorry. Most of the refuse was disposed of by dumping on to agricultural land with the permission of the farmers concerned. Practically all the work was done during the hours of darkness.

This system was unsatisfactory for obvious reasons and it was decided to put three " Bantam " vehicles into use, discontinuing the use of the Bedford, to carry out all work in daylight and to obtain and use sites for controlled tipping. The Council also decided to abandon salvage operations in view of the financial loss which had been steadily incurred, and to make a charge for all trade refuse collected, this latter being at the rate of £1 per load or 6d. per bin.

So far the new scheme has worked well. The constant complaints of irregular or non-collection of refuse which were received previously dropped to practically nil. The damage done to property and vehicles has almost ceased owing to the introduction of day-work.

Two tips are now in use, one for the northern area of the district comprising Carlin How, Brotton, North Skelton, New Skelton, Skelton, Skelton Green and part of Boosbeck, being situated in a small ravine at Woodside, Brotton and covering part of the New Hill Gill water course which was piped for approximately 100 yards. The second tip consists of an old sand pit approached from the Mutton Scalp Road at Boosbeck and serves the southern portion of the district including Moorsholm, Stanghow, Lingdale, Charltons, Margrove Park and part of Boosbeck.

It has been difficult to maintain these tips in ideal condition, mainly owing to the time lost by sickness and the educating of the men in proper control methods. A total of 1,522 man-hours were lost during the year in sickness.

The cost of the service is high, due to the scattered hilly rural character of the district, necessitating long hauls with resulting high mileage and maintenance costs. The estimate of cost for the financial year ending 31st March, 1950, was £4,167 but this included £410 for the piping of the New Hill Gill at Woodside and other first cost items.

The total mileage of the vehicles for the year was 13,582, the number of loads of refuse collected was 3,559, the approximate weight of the refuse being 6,140 tons. In addition, 368 loads of paper and tins were collected, but no weight is available for this material.

Factories

Twenty-four visits were made to factories and 3 intimatory notices were necessary, 1 relating to insufficient sanitary accommodation and 2 to lack of cleanliness.

TABLE 16

1. Inspections

Premises	No. on register	No. of Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced	16	14	3	—
2. Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	11	7	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 (Building Sites) is enforced	3	3	—	—
TOTAL	30	24	3	—

2. Cases where defects found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1	—	1
Lack of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	3	3	—	1

Workplaces

Five visits were made to workplaces (being places other than factories where persons are employed except in domestic service). Two defects amounting to nuisances were found and remedied.

Shops

Forty-six visits of inspection to shops dealing in all classes of goods were done, including visits for the abatement of nuisances, etc., defects being found and remedied at three.

Schools

It is regretted that every school in the area was not visited during 1949; 8 visits were made and defective drains were remedied at two schools.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

There is no Common Lodging House, House let in lodgings, or Offensive Trade in the district.

One licence was issued by the Council for a Moveable Dwelling.

The Knacker's Yard at Charltons was again licensed but improvements were insisted upon in the form of a septic tank and filter for the treatment of the drainage, renewal of floor paving and doors, and proper arrangements for the disposal of waste products. Three visits were made.

There are eight privately owned slaughterhouses on the register and 16 inspections were made. The majority of these slaughterhouses are not ideal but are used solely for the slaughter of pigs (i.e. " cottagers' pigs "). I prefer the slaughter and dressing of these animals to be done in the slaughterhouses which, although being far from perfect, are much better and more equipped for the purpose than a tumble-down filthy hut on an allotment.

Swimming Baths and Pools

In the district there are no (*a*) public or (*b*) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Cleansing, etc.

Number of houses found to be infested: Council houses 0; other houses 2; total disinfested 2. In 4 instances houses were cleaned after pressure was brought to bear upon the tenants.

Rodent Control

No statutory action was taken during the year, it being preferred to work with and assist occupiers of infested premises using the technique and poisons recommended by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Eight visits were made.

Only 1 complaint was received of infestation, which was speedily cleared up by the occupier concerned. The Woodside tip at Brotton became infested and, after pre-baiting and poisoning, 15 dead rats were observed.

The female staff became most anxious when mice were discovered in the attics of the Council offices. The Health Department came to the rescue and, with the aid of traps, caught and disposed of 17 mice.

It must not be inferred from the lack of complaints that the district is free from rats. I have no doubt that, if investigation was made, many infestations would be brought to light. For this reason I would recommend the Council to proceed with the appointment of a Rodent Officer without delay.

Housing

107 new dwelling houses were erected and occupied during the year, 97 by the Council and 10 by private owners.

30 houses inspected revealed defects which rendered the houses unfit for habitation. Action was taken by the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and resulted in the making of Demolition Orders in respect of the 18 houses, Nos. 1-18 Bell's Huts, Carlin How. The remaining houses, Nos. 1-12 Groundhill Cottages, Skelton, were saved by an undertaking given by the owner to the Council, which was accepted, to make the houses fit. The repairs and improvements to this property were proceeding slowly at the end of the year.

Most of my time for the twelve months was spent on housing repair work, no fewer than 1,135 houses being visited in connection with repairs needed under the Housing or Public Health Acts, necessitating a total of 2,179 visits. Lingdale and Boosbeck were the areas concentrated upon, the houses in these areas appearing to be the most neglected. A great deal of the works needed have been placed in the care of builders but, on enquiry of the latter, it would seem that the labour available is insufficient to cope with the work within a reasonable time. It appears to me that much more priority should be given to housing repair work by the Ministry of Works. Far too much luxury work, which is attractive to builders, is being done while the tenant of an ordinary dwelling house has to wait for months before a builder condescends to repair the oven. When interviewed

by me, it frequently happens that a builder rushes to a house, does a hasty repair to keep the tenant quiet, then disappears for months leaving much work undone. No doubt the times are responsible for this state of affairs but it makes it extremely difficult to obtain the systematic, street-by-street repair of houses.

Thus, with many houses still needing inspection, it will be some considerable time before it may be said that the majority of the houses in the district are in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

TABLE 17

Housing Appendix—Statistics

New houses erected in 1949

(*a*)	By private enterprise	10
(*b*)	By the Council	97

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year*

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1135
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2179
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	269

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices*

(1)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	60

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	27
(2)		Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(*a*)	By owners	13
	(*b*)	By local authority in default of owners	0

Table 17—Housing Appendix—Statistics—*continued*

B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(*a*) By owners	3
	(*b*) By local authority in default of owners	0
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	18
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	0
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
4.	*Housing Act*, 1936, *Part* 4, *Overcrowding*	
(1)	(*a*) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	78
	(*b*) Number of families dwelling therein	91
	(*c*) Number of persons dwelling therein	572
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	19
(3)	(*a*) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	3
	(*b*) Number of persons concerned in such cases	30
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(5)	Of the total number of houses surveyed and recorded since overcrowding provisions were introduced in the Housing Acts, *i.e.* 3,144, 78 were overcrowded at the end of the year, giving a percentage of 2.48	

TABLE 18

Nuisance Inspections

Total No. of inspections made for nuisances only (not including housing inspections)				1638
Nuisances found	580	Total needing abatement		741
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	161	Abated during year		587
		Outstanding at end of year		154
Notices served, informal	580	Complied with		584
Notices served, statutory	0	Complied with		3
Total number of summonses or other legal proceedings				Nil

FOOD

Milk Supply

At the beginning of the year 98 producers and retailers were on the register but, by the end of the year, with the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Diaries) Act, 1944, and the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949, this number had been reduced to 8 dairies and 9 retailers. The Minister of Agriculture thus becomes responsible for dairy farms and farmers.

In regretfully relinquishing this work, one cannot help reflecting that for many years local authorities did a grand job of work with inadequate legislation to help them. Now that the local authority functions are transferred to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries it is noted that much wider powers are given to the Minister than those ever possessed by local authorities.

52 visits were made to dairies and cowsheds and no defect was found.

Meat and Other Foods

There are 33 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

All slaughtering for the area is done at the Middlesbrough abbatoir under the regional scheme of the Ministry of Food. Occasionally, however, I am called in to butchers' and other shops to examine suspected articles and, for food inspection purposes, 61 visits were made and the following foods were condemned :—

TABLE 19

Food	Weight *lbs.*	*oz.*
Beef	92	
Mutton	25	8
Pork	140	
Bacon	37	
41 tins c.c. beef	141	
1 tin minced beef loaf		12
1 tin meat lunch loaf		12
1 tin veal loaf		12
1 tin pork brawn	2	
17 tins mussels	9	9
47 jars salad cream	29	6
Cod	77	
Hake cutlets	28	
Total	583	11

All food material was surrendered voluntarily by the tradesmen concerned.

Bakehouses

There are 5 bakehouses on the register all of which may be considered non-domestic in type. Five visits were made and in 2 premises defects were found and remedied. The absence of a hot water supply was outstanding in respect of 1 bakehouse at the end of the year.

Fish and Chip Shops

Ten visits were paid to fish and chip shops and in 5 of these cases, after representations had been made to the occupiers, adequate supplies of hot water were provided; 28 premises are on the register.

Ice Cream Shops

Thirteen visits were made to shops selling ice cream, there being no manufacturer of this commodity in the area but 23 retailers; 3 occupiers were persuaded to provide apparatus for the supply of hot water.

Public Houses

There are 21 licensed houses in the district and 31 visits were made. In 3 cases sanitary accommodation was found to be inadequate, and this was remedied in 2 instances by the end of the year. In 6 cases a hot water supply was provided in the bar. Defects amounting to nuisances were also remedied in 3 premises.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935

TABLE 20

Sanitary Inspector's Summary for the Year ending 31st December, 1949

1. Housing Repair Works done during the year

Roofs renewed or repaired	164	Water closets provided	7
Chimneys re-built or repaired	9	Water closets repaired	8
Walls re-built or repaired	87	Bathrooms provided	6
Walls pointed or rendered	26	Privy pans renewed	402
Wall dampness remedied	125	Privies repaired	51
Eaves gutters renewed	25	Privies converted to water closets	106
Rain water pipes renewed	21	Dust bins renewed	61
Connections made to sewers	36	Dust bins provided	106
Drains tested, No.	240	Wash-houses repaired	3
Drains tested, length (yards)	589	Wash-houses provided	2
Drains renewed	11	Wash-boilers renewed or repaired	30
Extra drains provided	225	Coal-houses provided or repaired	4
Choked drains cleared	21	Ceilings renewed or repaired	126
New gullies	85	Wall plaster renewed or repaired	284
New chambers	52	Floors renewed or repaired	123
New intercepting traps	5	Windows renewed or repaired	155
Waste pipes renewed or repaired	43	Windows re-corded	67
Yards paved	22	Ranges and ovens renewed or repaired	51
Yard paving renewed or repaired	43	Fireplaces renewed or repaired	12
Sinks renewed or provided	80	Doors renewed or repaired	199
Sculleries provided	5	Pantries or food stores provided or repaired	31
Water supply installed in houses	60	Handrails provided or renewed	7
Water pipes renewed or repaired	14	Stairs renewed or repaired	10

2. Visits made, Record of Works done and Number of Notices Served, etc.

(*a*) *Total Visits made during the year* 2410

(*b*) *Complaints received and investigated* 258

(*c*) *Nuisances*

Houses inspected	775
Number of inspections	1638
Nuisances found	580
Nuisances in hand	161
Total needing abatement	741
Number abated	587
Outstanding	154

(*d*) *Housing*

Houses inspected	360	Representations	30
Number of inspections	541	Closing orders made	0
Houses unfit	30	Closing orders determined	0
Houses with defects	269	Demolition orders made	18
Houses made fit informally	60	Houses demolished	0
Houses made fit formally	13		

(*e*) *Visits made to various premises or in connection with various duties*

Water supply	41	Churches	6
Drainage	204	Privy conversions	194
Stables and piggeries	2	Overcrowding	2
Fish and chip shops	10	Verminous premises	6
Moveable dwellings	1	Infectious diseases	14
Factories, mechanical	7	Disinfections	13
Factories, non-mechanical	14	Slaughterhouses	16
Building sites	3	Shops and stalls (food inspection)	19
Workplaces	5	Butchers	8
Bakehouses	5	Fishmongers	6
Cinemas	1	Grocers	11
Refuse collection	38	Fruiterers	7
Refuse disposal	40	Cowsheds	22
Rodent control	8	Dairies	30
Schools	8	Ice cream shops	13
Shops	46	Restaurants	2
Public houses	31	Miscellaneous	24

(*f*) *Notices served*

Informal Housing Acts	269	Statutory Housing Acts	27
Informal Public Health Acts	580	Statutory Public Health Acts	—

(*g*) *Notices complied with*

Informal Housing Acts	60	Statutory Housing Acts	13
Informal Public Health Acts	584	Statutory Public Health Acts	3

J. J. PATTISON,

M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX A

Report on Clean Food

It is with diffidence that I write this report because one of the first requirements for Clean Food is a sufficiency of water ; the three urban districts of which I have the honour to be Medical Officer of Health have been periodically short of water since 1919, according to the documents in my office.

Outbreaks of illness due to the eating of food contaminated by bacteria causing food poisoning have become much more numerous during the last few years ; so much so that on the 1st January, 1949, the Registrar General requested Medical Officers of Health to include notified cases of food poisoning in their weekly returns. I took that opportunity to remind all doctors practising in the Districts that cases of food poisoning are notifiable under Section 17 (1) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The reasons for the recent increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning can only be surmised ; one reason alleged is the greater number of people who eat in restaurants or canteens. Whatever the cause it is obvious that much of our food is prepared, handled, delivered or served with a disregard of the rudiments of cleanliness. By what means may the local authorities ensure that Food is Clean ?

Firstly there are the statutory powers and obligations conferred on local authorities under various sections of the Sales of Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 15 of the Act empowers local authorities to make bye-laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air. On October 27th, 1949, the Minister of Food issued to local authorities a model for those bye-laws. The model has been prepared in consultation with local authorities and trade associations.

Some desirable provisions have had to be excluded because of the shortage of materials and equipment and the model may be added to from time to time. The suggested provisions which cover such matters as personal hygiene, cleanliness and good order of equipment, cleanliness of wrapping material and the deposit and removal of refuse have been drafted with a view to their application in both urban and rural areas and to every type of food handling trade. In making bye-laws local authorities are not bound in any way by the form of the model which is intended as a guide to provisions that are reasonable and enforceable having regard to present-day conditions. Nevertheless the Minister points out that local authorities who contemplate making bye-laws may find it convenient to adopt the model since normally confirmation may then be expected rapidly and without alteration. I would stress that such model bye-laws must not be regarded as a panacea that would banish uncleanliness from our food, but as adjuvants that will give the local authority some increase of effective power.

Secondly there are forms of propaganda or education on the part of local authorities in bringing home to the public, food traders or manufacturers and food handlers the importance of clean handling of food. The forms of propaganda or education may be arranged under the following headings :—

(1) Lectures or classes for food traders or their employees.
(2) Exhibitions.
(3) Lectures, etc., for the general public including local women's organisations.
(In (1), (2) and (3) the Central Council for Health Education might prove helpful.)
(4) Formation of clean food guilds.
(5) Formulation of local codes of practice.

A local clean food guild might be found to be useful. The guild could be formed under an Advisory Committee comprising the chairman of the Local Authority, district councillors and representatives of the trades concerned. The essence of the scheme is observance by members of codes of practice which have been agreed for the various types of premises. Under the codes the employer undertakes, in addition to conforming with the statutory requirements, to maintain his premises and equipment in a way that facilitates cleanliness, and regarding his employees, to facilitate and encourage their personal cleanliness ; the employees on their side undertake to maintain a high standard of personal cleanliness both of body and of clothing and to support their employers' efforts to keep a good standard in the premises.

W. H. BUTCHER,
Medical Officer of Health.

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